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| 09/465,506 | 12/16/1999 | LANCE LUNDBERG | ICON-102 | 8959 |

21832 7590 04/17/2002
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| EXAMINER |
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AKERS, GEOFFREY R

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2164

DATE MAILED: 04/17/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------|------|
| Application No. | 09/465506 | Applicant(s) | 8K |
| Examiner | Akers, G | Group Art Unit | 2164 |

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication .
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12/16/99

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1-80 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 1-80 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 3 Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-40 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-40 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Clark(US Pat. No: 6,351,738) in view of Hartley-Urquhart(US Pat. No: 6,167,385).

4. As per claims 1,6,18,30 Clark teaches a method for supporting security-trade financing for a company seeking capital(Fig 4/416)(col 4 lines 5-14)(col 6 lines 6-7) comprising maintaining an inventory data base including data identifying products(col 4 lines 21-32) and determining a cash/trade-credit blend for the purpose of providing financing to the company wherein the cash/trade-credit blend includes a cash portion and a trade-credit portion(Fig 4/414)(col 5 lines 6-14)(col 6 lines 3-5)(coll 11 line 40-col 12 line 46)(col 12 line 50-56) and receiving at least a portion of the cash/trade-credit blend from the company in exchange for a proportional quantity of the products in inventory that are desired by the company(Fig 4/410)(Fig 5)(col 5 lines 21-50)(col 8 line 57-col 10 line 54). Clark fails to teach receiving securities from the company in exchange for the trade-credit portion of the cash/trade-credit blend, but does teach the ability of equity participants to be part of an IPO without loss of control(col 6 lines 8-9). Hartley-Urquhart

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teaches this(col 3 lines 7-col 4 line 52).It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Clark in view of Hartley-Urquhart to teach the above. The motivation to combine is to teach a means of financing of a business and one mechanism is supply-chain financing as enunciated by Hartley-Urquhart(col 2 lines 5-11).

5. As per claim 2 Clark teaches according to Claim 1. Clark does not specifically teach further including the steps of receiving deficient assets from a deficient asset company but does teach transmitting trade credits to the deficient asset company(Fig 4/410). It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Clark in view of Hartley-Urquhart to teach paying for the deficient assets of a deficient company and storing data identifying the deficient assets in the inventory data base. The motivation to combine is to teach a means of financing of a business and one mechanism is supply-chain financing as enunciated by Hartley-Urquhart(col 2 lines 5-11).

6. As per claim 3,10-12,33-34 Clark teaches a method as recited in Claims 1,10,33 wherein the products identified in the inventory data base are categorized(col 9 line 49)(col 10 lines 4-7)(Fig 4/414/418).

7. As per claims 4,9 13-14,21-25 Clark teaches a method as recited in Claim 1,10,18,21 wherein the products are selected from the group consisting of goods and services(col 9 line 49)(col 10 lines 4-7)(col 10 line 36)(col 11 lines 40-61).

8. As per claim 5,27-28,39-40 Clark teaches a method as recited in Claim 1,18,30 wherein the cash/trade-credit blend is represented by a cash-credit ratio(col 10 lines 34-36). Clark fails to

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teach specifically wherein the cash-credit ratio is between 1/99 and 99/1 inclusive. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Clark in view of Hartley-Urquhart to teach a specific range of cash-credit ratios. The motivation to combine is to teach a means of financing of a business and one mechanism is supply-chain financing as enunciated by Hartley-Urquhart (col 2 lines 5-11).

9. As per claim 7, 16-17, 19-20, 26, 29, 31, 37-38 Clark teaches a method as recited in Claims 6, 18, 19, 30 wherein the desired plan cost basis is based on valuations of the company (col 10 lines 43-45) (Fig 4/416).

10. As per claims 8, 32, 35-36 Clark teaches a method as recited in Claim 6, 31, 34 wherein the valuations include an agreed-to valuation and a desired valuation (col 10 lines 43-45) (Fig 4/416).

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

-Bellini teaches a system for enterprise planning across a supply chain

-Barnes teaches an electronic procurement system for trading partners

12. Any questions concerning this communication should be addressed to the examiner of record, Dr. Geoffrey Akers, P.E., who can be reached between 6:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday at 703-306-5844. If attempts to contact the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's superior, Mr. Vincent Millin, SPE, may be telephoned at (703)-308-1065.

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The fax number for Formal or Official faxes and Draft or Informal faxes to Technology Center 2100 or this Art Unit is (703)-308-6296 or 6306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-305-3900.

GRA
April 13, 2002